

In re Patent Application of:  
HOLLAND ET AL.  
Serial No. 10/619,327  
Filing Date: July 14, 2003  
Attorney Docket No. 72191

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In the Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) For use with a limited access multinode cooperative telecommunication network comprising a limited access ~~internode~~ multinode communications network and a plurality of nodes connected to each other through the ~~internode~~ multinode communications network, ~~wherein a~~ wherein each respective node comprises a private branch exchange (PBX) platform operating as a switchboard and each having a separate dialing plan and each node communicating with each other using a communications line without any separate signaling connection, wherein each node has a copy of the dialing plan only for its node as a (PBX) platform and no other nodes and operative to service multiple ~~telecommunication~~ communication devices coupled to said respective node through the respective separate dialing plan for a node, each communication device having an extension within a respective dialing plan for a node that is used in the course of routing a call from a calling communication device to a called communication device, a method of routing a call from a calling communication device at a first node to a called device as a queried target corresponding to a requested extension at another node comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting a query message from said first node to all other nodes of said network, said query message being operative to determine whether a respective node receiving said

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query message is coupled to said called device as a queried target;

(b) at each node, examining the local accounts to determine if the queried target as the requested extension is connected to the respective node;

(c) at a second node to which said called device is coupled, transmitting a reply message to said first node indicating that said second node is coupled to said called device and has the queried target corresponding to the requested extension while all other nodes ignore the query message and do not transmit a reply message indicative the all other nodes do not have the queried target as the requested extension for locating or routing; and

(d) in response to receipt of said reply message by said first node, routing said call from said first node to said second node, so that said second node may complete the connection of said call to said called device without requiring a copy of dialing plans for all other nodes.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (a) includes the precursor step of causing said first node to examine an associated dialing plan therefor to determine whether said first node is coupled to said called device.

3. (CANCELLED)

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4. (CANCELLED)

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of operating a multinode cooperative telecommunication network comprising a limited access ~~internode~~ multinode communications network and a plurality of nodes coupled to one another by said ~~internode~~ multinode communication path, each node comprises a private branch exchange (PBX) platform operating as a switchboard and each having a separate dialing plan, wherein each node has a copy of the dialing plan only for its node as a (PBX) platform and no other nodes and being operative to service multiple ~~telecommunication~~ communication devices coupled thereto through the respective separate dialing plan for a node wherein each of the nodes communicates with each other using a communications line without any separate signaling connection, each communication device having an extension within a respective dialing plan for a node that is used in the course of routing a call from a calling communication device to a called communication device as a queried target corresponding to a requested extension, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) in response to the placement of a call from a communication device coupled to a first node, causing said first node to examine the associated dialing plan associated with that

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respective node to determine whether said first node is coupled to said called device;

(b) at each node, examining the local accounts to determine if the queried target as the requested extension is connected to the respective node;

(c) in response to said first node determining that said first node is not coupled to said called device, transmitting a query message from said first node to all other nodes of said network, said query message being operative to inquire whether a respective node receiving said query message is coupled to said called device as a queried target;

(d) at a second node to which said called device is coupled, transmitting a reply message to said first node indicating that said second node is coupled to said called device and has the queried target corresponding to the requested extension while other nodes ignore the query message and do not transmit a reply message indicative the all other nodes do not have the queried target as the requested extension for locating or routing; and

(e) in response to receipt of said reply message by said first node, routing said call from said first node to said second node, so that said second node may complete the connection of said call to said called device without requiring a copy of dialing plans for all other nodes.

6. (CANCELLED)

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7. (CANCELLED)

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of operating a multinode, cooperative, restricted access telecommunication network comprising a limited access ~~internode~~ multinode communication network and a plurality of nodes coupled to one another by said internode communication network, wherein, each node comprises a private branch exchange (PBX) platform operating as a switchboard and each having a separate dialing plan wherein each of the nodes communicate with each other using a communications line without any separate signaling connection, wherein each node has a copy of the dialing plan only for its node as a (PBX) platform and no other nodes and being operative to service multiple ~~telecommunication~~ communications devices coupled thereto through the respective separate dialing plan for the respective node, each communication device having an extension within a respective dialing plan for the respective node to which it is connected that is used in the course of routing a call from a calling communication device to a called communication device as a queried target corresponding to a requested extension, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing at each node the dialing plan that contains only communication device extensions that are coupled to said each respective node;

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(b) in response to the placement of a call from a communication device coupled to a first node, causing said first node to examine the associated dialing plan associated with that respective node so as to determine whether said first node is coupled to said called device;

(c) in response to said first node determining that said first node is coupled to said called device, routing said call to said called device, but otherwise transmitting a query message from said first node to all other nodes of said network, said query message being operative to inquire whether a respective node receiving said query message is coupled to said called device as a queried target;

(d) at said all other nodes of said network examining respective call plans only therefor, so as to determine whether said called device is contained therein by examining at each node its local accounts to determine if the queried target is at the requested node;

(e) at only a second node which is that one of said all other nodes of said network to which said called device is coupled, transmitting a reply message to said first node indicating that said second node is coupled to said called device and has the queried target corresponding to the requested extension while all other nodes ignore the query message and do not transmit a reply message indicative the all other nodes do not

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have the queried target as the requested extension for locating or routing; and

(f) in response to receipt of said reply message by said first node, routing said call from said first node to said second node, so that said second node may complete the connection of said call to said called device without requiring a copy of dialing plans for all other nodes.

9. (CANCELLED)

10. (CANCELLED)